



Revolutionary Times



Containing the Latest News from the Sons of the American Revolution

Siege of Boston

Following the battles at Lexington & Concord (April 1775), colonial forces from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island formed a New England army to surround and contain the British forces occupying Boston.

The Siege of Boston was essentially a containment of British forces in Boston laid out by the American militia, later known as the Continental Army on the British held Boston.

On June 13, 1775, the leaders of the Continental Army learned that the British forces were planning to fortify the nearby unoccupied hills.

On June 17, 1775, the British forces learned that the Americans had occupied the hills and they launched an attack against them. The battle came to be known as the Battle of Bunker Hill.

The Continental Congress formed the new Continental Army on June 14 and General George Washington was named its commander-in-chief on June 15, 1775.

Over the course of the siege, both armies had to deal with a harsh winter which resulted in a lack of resources and personnel issues.

The Americans faced a severe shortage of gunpowder. So much so that the soldiers were handed spears to fight with instead of guns



in an event of a British attack. On the other hand, the British forces were facing a shortage of wood.

Washington wanted to break the ongoing stalemate. However, to achieve this he needed artillery.

In November 1775, he ordered Colonel Henry Knox to bring back artillery captured at Fort Ticonderoga. Knox successfully transported more than 60 tons of captured armament from Fort Ticonderoga back to Boston. These supplies also included more than 55 cannons and they reached Boston by late January 1776.

Finally, on March 2, 1776, the Continental Army placed some of the cannons in fortification around Boston.

Fortification of the heights south of Boston began on the night of March 4 and 5, 1776.

On the other side of Boston, in Cambridge, guns bombarded the British-held town as a diversion.

Over the next week, the stronghold grew in size and strength.

The British forces first decided to go on the offensive but soon realized its futility as their cannons could not reach the American forces stationed at a height.

The siege began on April 19, 1775, and went on for 11-months, following which the British forces left the region and sailed to Nova Scotia.

The siege of Boston finally ended on March 17, 1776.

This broadsheet is dedicated to the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Declaration of Independence for more information visit the National Society Sons of the American Revolution website at: www.sar.org

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